

BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944.



Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1944.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health. L.E. Dickson, M.D. (part time).
Sanitary & Food Inspector. J. Wade. Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sec.A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population at mid 1944.	5,968.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944 according to the rate book.	1,683.
Rateable value.	£28,201.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£112-6-7.407

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births.	131.	66.	65.)	Birth rate per 1,000 of	
Legitimate.	121.	60.	61.)	the estimated resident	
Illegitimate.	10.	6.	4.)	population.	21.95
Still Births.	1.	-	1.)	Rate per 1,000 total	
Legitimate.	1.	-	1.)	live and still births.	7.5
Deaths.	73.	36.	37.	Death rate per 1,000 of	
				estimated resident	
				population.	12.3

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	1	-	1
Illegitimate.	1	1	-
Total.	2.	1.	1.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	15.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	8.2
Illegit. infants per 1,000 illegit. live births.	100.0

Deaths from Cancer.(all ages).	12.
Deaths from Whooping Cough.(all ages).	1.
" " Measles. (all ages).	0.
" " Diarrhoea.(under 2 years of age).	0.

Sec.B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority - see above.

1. Laboratory Facilities.)
2. Ambulance Facilities.) There has been no change.
3. Nursing in the Home.)
4. Treatment Centres & Clinics.)
5. Hospitals.)

Public. Bridgnorth-Borough Isolation Hospital was closed at the end of the year.

Bridgnorth Public Assistance Institution Hospital.
Only women are admitted from outside the Institution.
There are a few beds reserved for male inmates only.
Male patients from the district are accommodated

where beds are available in other Public Assistance Institutions in the County.

Voluntary. Bridgnorth & South Shropshire Infirmary.

Sec. 6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water. There has been an adequate amount of water in the Rindle-Ford Borehole. The need for increased storage capacity is being given careful consideration by the Council. Provision of a plant for softening this water is at present not feasible. Bacteriological Analysis. Two samples of this water going into supply were reported to be 'highly satisfactory'. Chlorination of this water has been maintained, except for a short period, during repairs, throughout the year.

The Oldbury Wells supply is by stand-pipes either direct from the Conduit Well or through a tank situated by the Town Hall. There has been no shortage of this supply. Some samples of the water going into supply were examined bacteriologically and varied from 'safe' to 'highly satisfactory'. One sample of the raw water was reported on as being safe. One chemical analysis showed that this was a hard water with no indication that it would attack metals.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports that there are approximately fifty-five premises in the Borough which do not receive a supply of water from either of the above sources.

No extensions of the water supplies were carried out during the year.

Tasley Water Scheme. The Council's scheme for the extension of mains and provision of a reservoir in this parish did not receive the approval of the Ministry of Health, it not being considered of sufficiently urgent necessity at the present time and that the Ministry were not satisfied with the scheme. A modified scheme is to be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Hundred House Water Scheme. Considerable progress has been made with the plans for supplying water from the Conduit Well to the Hundred House and Oldbury localities. The Ministry of Health are prepared to give their approval after ascertaining the views of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Work on this scheme is now in progress and should shortly be completed.

During the year the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 was placed upon the Statute Book. In the Act the term 'rural localities' applies to rural areas in Boroughs and Urban Districts. Schemes cannot be executed until after the war if they are to qualify for grant. Consultation with the County Council is required before any schemes are submitted to the Minister. The object of the Act is to encourage the promotion of comprehensive rather than purely local schemes of water supply and sewerage to sizeable groups of houses and schools as well as for trade and agricultural purposes.

Sewerage and Drainage. Northgate Sewage works. It was decided that the effluent from this plant should be piped to an outlet into Cantreyn Brook below the Stanley Lane Bridge. This has since been done. As a result of the low rainfall in the spring, and summer months the flow of water in this stream was poor, but later there was a normal flow.

No extensions of sewerage or drainage were carried out during the year.

Refuse. This is collected and disposed of at the Northgate Tip where there is an incinerator.

Rats. The work of the rat catchers has been responsible for a considerable reduction of the rat population at the tip and the extermination of the major rat infestations in the town.

The Swimming Bath continued in operation during the year.

A Report by your Inspector, Mr. Wade, is appended. I have much pleasure in acknowledging his unfailing help.

Sec.D. HOUSING.

No new houses have been built.

Clearance Areas. Three areas have been scheduled by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Health. These comprise twenty houses. Four areas were recommended by the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee to the Council during the year and since the end of the year approved. These comprise 33 houses.

Housing accommodation was increased by the conversion of three properties into dwellings.

Mr. Wade and Miss Newman, your newly appointed assistant inspector, have worked indefatigably in inspecting and preparing schedules for the Clearance Areas.

A summary of housing work is given by Mr. Wade.

Sec.E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The numbers of inspections are given in Mr. Wade's Report.

Adulteration. No action has been taken in this matter.

Sec.F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

In the fourth quarter of this year there was an epidemic of measles.

There was again no case of Diphtheria in the Borough.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis at December 31st, 1944.

	Under 5 yrs.	Over 5 and under 15.	Total.
Estimated number of children in the area at December 31st, 1944.	502.	1004.	1506.
Number immunised at December 31st, 1944.	215.	727.	942.
Number immunised in year 1944.	72.	57.	129.
Percentage considered immunised at December 31st, 1944.	42.8%	73%	

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1944.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Measles.	66.	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	2.	2.	-
Pneumonia.	8.	2.	2.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3.	3.	-
Erysipelas.	2.	2.	-

Tuberculosis.New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 years.	1.	1.	-	2.	-	-	-	-
25 "	1.	1.	1.	-	-	1.	1.	-
35 "	1.	1.	-	-	1.	1.	-	-
45 "	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
55 "	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
Total.	5.	3.	1.	2.	3.	2.	1.	-

Scabies. The incidence of this complaint has steadily diminished

The Isolation Hospital.Cases admitted during the year.

	Total.	Borough cases.	From other districts.
Scarlet Fever.	18.	1.	17.
German Measles.	18.	1.	17.
Measles.	1.	-	1.
For observation.	1.	-	1.

No cases were admitted after October 10th, 1944. Owing to difficulty in staffing the Institution and the large estimate expenditure for reconditioning, the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee decided to recommend to the Council final closure of the Institution, and negotiation with Shrewsbury Borough for permission to send cases needing isolation to their hospital at Monkmoor. This arrangement is now in force.

I am, your obedient Servant,

L. E. DICKSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

B O R O U G H O F B R I D G N O R T H.

Health Department.

1st January, 1945.

To the Bridgnorth Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor & Members,

I have pleasure in presenting a brief summary of the work carried out during the past year, together with a Report on the sanitary circumstances of the area, requested by the Medical Officer of Health, and which should be considered as one with his report.

INSPECTIONS MADE.

Insurances	16	Milk & Dairies	33
Drainage	12	Food Inspection	45
Sanitary Accommodation ..	96	Bakehouses.	7
Ashbins	150	Market Stalls	31
Housing Inspections	252		
Overcrowding.	6		116
Moveable Dwellings	74		
" " Sites	2		
Factories	2		
Rats and Mice	40		
Water Supply.	101		
Dirty Houses.	3		
Accumulations	2		
Scabies and Vermin	3		
Wewage Disposal	93		
Food & Drugs Act (as opposite)	116		
Total Inspections	968		
" Re-inspections	140		
" Visits not inspections	593		

NO. OF STATUTORY NOTICES & RESULTS OF SAME.

Notices complied with	56
Notices not complied with ..	39
Notices not complied with and action taken in default ..	2
Notices not expired	2
	99
Notices outstanding from 1943	2
Notices outstanding from 1943 and now complied with ..	2

NO. OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Notices complied with	14
Notices not complied with and Statutory Notices served..	8
	22

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

May I remark again on the natural beauty of Bridgnorth and its surroundings, and the necessity for minimising pollution of the atmosphere by smoke. Industrial smoke offers little or no difficulty, but I should like to bring forward again my suggestion that in their future housing operations, the Council might consider the use of smokeless or smoke reducing heating and cooking arrangements.

WATER SUPPLY.

The main water supply of the Borough has again been subject to periodic analyses, which have all proved highly satisfactory. The conduit supply has also continued satisfactory at source, though some difficulty has been experienced in achieving satisfactory analyses of that portion of the conduit supply which is served from the High Street tank. The last analysis showed a considerable improvement and if this is maintained, it can be considered that the steps taken to clean out the tank and its services have been satisfactory.

During the year four houses at Oldbury have been connected to the town's main supply through the courtesy of Mrs. Abrahams of Oldbury Grove, who allowed a connection to her private service..

The premises in Hundred House Bank area mentioned in my last Annual Report as having unsatisfactory water supplies, have not yet been relieved by the Hundred House Bank scheme. It is hoped that this scheme will not be long delayed. I understand that the Fort Lendlestone Dairies, which was also reported to have an unsatisfactory water supply, is to receive a supply from the town mains.

During the year, it has been possible to carry out a survey of the Borough to ascertain which houses do not enjoy the town's water, either from the Rindleford or the Conduit supplies. The number of these premises is approximately 55, and during the coming year it is hoped to make to the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee a detailed report on the nature and extent of the present means of supply to these premises.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND CONSERVANCY.

A survey has also been carried out to ascertain the number of premises in the Borough which are not connected to a public sewerage system. The number of such premises is approximately 150. In addition to these premises, the major proportion of houses in the town, although sewered, discharge their sewage directly into the River Severn. Sewage from the remainder is treated at the Stanley Lane Sewage Works; the effluent from which, however, is far from satisfactory. It is hoped that it will be possible during the year to present to the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee a detailed report on the arrangements made in each case where a house is not connected to the sewerage system.

FOOD.

There have been few complaints during the year about the quality of the home killed meat from the Abattoir, Wolverhampton, though, of course, the amount of home killed meat has declined whilst that of imported has greatly risen. Generally, methods of food storage are much better than they were found to be in 1942 and there has been no action during the year to seize any foodstuffs.

On the 27th July, 1944, the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, was passed, which put an end to the powers of the Local Authority over production of milk. This Act is to come into operation on a date appointed by the Ministry of Health. The date has not yet been appointed, but on its announcement a report will be made through the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee on the extent of the powers which the Local Authority will retain in relation to the milk supply. It is anticipated that this will consist of little else besides supervision of milk distribution and perhaps the undertaking of pasteurisation in areas where a pasteurising plant is not already in operation.

HOUSING.

The most notable happening of the year under review, so far as the Health Department is concerned, was the appointment of an Assistant intended chiefly to help with the Housing Survey. This appointment has enabled the work of inspection to proceed at a greatly increased rate and the number of detailed inspections carried out is 156.

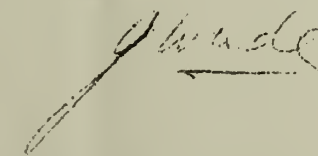
For a variety of reasons the work of classifying the inspections and the scheduling of areas suitable for treatment as Clearance Areas has been carried on concurrently with the work of inspection. Whilst this, of course, tends to slow down somewhat the number of inspections carried out, the balance of advantage is all on the side of continuing the present policy. The scheduling of areas as Clearance Areas involves a very great deal of work, chiefly office work, and I should like here to pay a tribute to Miss Newman, your Assistant Inspector, whose efficiency has made possible the very considerable progress attained. It may in fact be said that without her experience as a shorthand-typist, her adaptability in grasping the essentials of the type of work required, and her readiness to assist outside of ordinary office hours, the scheduling of areas could hardly have commenced at all at this stage.

During the latter part of the year, three areas comprising 20 houses have been scheduled by the Council and are in the hands of the Ministry of Health; four areas comprising 33 houses have been recommended by the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee and await the Council's approval; and a further area comprising 26 houses has been the subject of an Official Representation by the Medical Officer of Health and is awaiting the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee's approval. A further proposed area comprising 44 houses is under consideration by the Medical Officer of Health.

The whole of the houses mentioned above lie in Cartway, Riverside, Friar Street and the Steps adjacent thereto. The whole of the houses in this district have been inspected in detail and, in so far as they are not already classified in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health, are awaiting his inspection and opinion. A start has already been made on inspections in the district Listley Street, Railway Street and Ebenezer Row.

In my Annual Report for 1944, I was able to remark on the increased possibility of housing repair work, owing to the inclusion of this work in the list of priorities. Up to about four months ago, quite a considerable amount of repair work and conversions had been carried out. Three properties were converted to housing accommodation by the Council at a cost of £460. 6. 1. In addition to this a reasonable amount of repair work was carried out under Certificates of Essentiality, amounting in cost to £451 approximately. After the removal of building labour a short time ago to deal with conditions in London, there was a very serious decline in the amount of house repair work carried out in the town, and this is to be made the subject of representations to the Ministry of Health on the instructions of the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee.

Yours faithfully,



SANITARY INSPECTOR.

